

Israel: Reporting Change To Be Revisited

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June 27, 2003, 2:41 PM EDT

Long Island might get another chance to regain its identity.

The Office of Management and Budget has decided to revisit its decision to merge Long Island into New York City's metropolitan statistical area, Rep. Steve Israel (D-Huntington) said Friday.

The OMB told Israel and Rep. Peter King (R-Seafood) that it was going to reopen the issue for another round of public comments, and would decide in September whether to revise, overturn or keep its previous ruling, Israel said.

An OMB spokesman did not immediately return calls for comment.

But Israel said the decision was an unusual one.

"They're giving us another chance at bat, and we can't blow it now," he said.

Israel and King also received a letter from OMB Thursday indicating that even if the change remains in force, Long Island should still be entitled to its same level of funding, even with its new designation as a "metropolitan division."

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